

nucleus and finely granular contents. These cells appear to me to be comparable to those which have been described in the same situation in *Hydatina senta*, and by Ray Lankester in the embryo of *Pisidium pusillum*.—*Comptes Rendus*, January 17, 1876, p. 233.

On the Range of the Striped Opossum.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—Permit me, through the medium of your valuable publication, to add a new locality to the already very extensive range of the Striped Opossum, *Dactylopsila trivirgata* (Gray). I have lately received from the Herbert River, near Rockingham Bay, a very fine young specimen of this interesting animal. It differs only from Dr. Gray's description in the great *length of the fur* on the body and tail, and in the dark parts being of a *jet-black* colour; the hands and feet are of a pale buff, the terminal third of the tail white, the remaining basal portion black above, mixed with white on the sides and whitish below. For this specimen we are indebted to Mr. J. Montgomery, of the Department of Roads for the District of Cardwell.

Yours truly,

Australian Museum,
Sydney.

E. PIERSON RAMSAY,
Curator.

On the Natural History of the Rockingham-Bay District, Australia.

By E. PIERSON RAMSAY, Curator, Australian Museum, Sydney.

Rockingham-Bay district is a most interesting one for the naturalist. I have myself travelled over the greater portion of the settled districts of the eastern and southern parts of Australia; but in no one place have I met with so large a fauna, the birds alone amounting to about 300 species, including sea-birds. The mammals, including three new species and one of a new genus lately described by me, amount to about 20 species. With insects of all orders the whole district is teeming. The Lepidoptera, of the genera *Papilio*, *Ornithoptera*, &c., are particularly rich and highly coloured; of the Sphingidæ I obtained 8 species, among them three new to science, which I hope shortly to find time to describe.

The only class in which the district appeared to be poor was the land and freshwater shells. Within a radius of about fifty miles, to which my researches were chiefly confined, I only obtained about 15 species, including the genera *Helix*, *Pupina*, *Bulimus*, *Vitrina*, *Geotrochus*, *Physa*, *Lymnea*, *Melania*, *Cyclas*, and *Anodonta*.

The groves of banana (*Musa Banksii*, Müller) and of the noble palm trees were remarkable for their beauty and elegance. I was particularly struck with one, an immense shield-palm, with peltate fronds, and measuring in long diameter 6 feet, short diameter being about 5 feet. This noble species was noticeable at a great distance, its large shield-like leaves presenting broad, well-defined green disks cropping out here and there through the luxuriant vegetation which

so densely clothes the sides of the ranges. My friend the Baron F. von Mueller informs me this plant is quite new to science.

I collected the following species in the Herbert-River district:—

Ptychosperma Alexandrae. This species grows much taller and thinner than the same(?) species further south. The southern limit is, I believe, Rockhampton (although an allied species is found near Toowoomba, in the Brisbane district). The seeds also are very much smaller, and of a bright red, oval and pointed.

Kentia Wentlandiana(?). A species easily distinguished from others in the district by the blunt serrated tips of the pinnae, and broad fan-shaped terminal pinnae of the fronds. It grows within the influence of the tide in almost salt water, on the margins of rivers and creeks near the sea, but is also found in the deep ravines of the mountains.

Kentia Cunninghamsi. I find no difference between this plant and the "bungalow palm" of the Illawarra district.

Livistonia, sp. (*humilis*?). A species resembling our New-South-Wales *Corypha australis*. The fruits are round, plum-coloured when ripe. Grows on the tops of stony ridges, and seldom exceeds 15 feet in height.

Livistonia, sp. A distinct palm from any of the foregoing, found growing within the influence of salt water. Fruit black, round. Species not yet determined.

Calamus of three distinct species abound in the scrubs, some growing to an incredible length, often 400 to 500 yards. One of the largest species, when old and blackened by the effects of decaying vegetation, is much sought after for walking-sticks. The other two species are thin wiry kinds, about half an inch in diameter at most, and not unfrequently used by the natives for ties &c. Both species are distinct from *C. australis* of the New-South-Wales brushes.

Of Cycadaceæ I found 6 species, of which 3 belong to the genus *Cycas*, 1 to *Bowenia*, and 4 to *Macrozamia*. *Macrozamia Denisonii* (*Lepidozamia Peroffskyana*, Regel) grows to a great height in that district, some attaining to 20 feet. I find it mentioned by Mr. W. Hill as *Catakidozamia Hopei*. I am afraid there is very little difference, if any, between these two plants. I have them both growing under glass, and have also examined them in their native habitat.

Of *Pandanus* I noticed three species—two very closely allied, differing slightly in form of growth, but chiefly in the colour of the ripe seed (which is bright yellow in one), and in the shape of the fruits (which, however, vary much in both). The third species is found only in the damp gullies of the ranges; and is distinguished by the great length of its narrow drooping leaves, which are often *ten feet* in length. It is of a trailing habit, the stem about 3 or 4 inches in diameter and frequently 10 or 12 long, recumbent, usually over dead logs, trunks of trees, &c. Seeds small, yellow, and quite distinct in shape, few, scattered, sometimes only one or two on a "cone."